

Finance Committee Minutes
September 8, 2008

ITEM #1

ORDERED THAT \$1,240,00.00 IS APPROPRIATED FOR THE PURCHASE OF DEPARTMENTAL EQUIPMENT; THAT IS APPROPRIATION THE TREASURER WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR IS AUTHORIZED TO BORROW \$1,240,032.00 AND ISSUE BONDS OR NOTES UNDER CHAPTER 44 OF THE GENERAL LAWS OR ANY ENABLING AUTHORITY, THAT SUCH BONDS OR NOTES UNDER CHAPTER 44 OF THE GENERAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITY; THAT THE TREASURER WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR IS AUTHORIZED TO TAKE ANY OTHER ACTION NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THIS PROJECT.

Bond authorization for the acquisition of capital equipment.

Department	Request	Estimated Cost
Highway	(2) 7-9 yard dump trucks	280,000.00
	Tractor Backhoe w/plow	155,000.00
Engineering/Highway	Ford Escape Hybrid (switch w/Explorer)	32,000.00
Sanitation	(3) 20 yd. Sanitation Packers w/toters	525,000.00
DPW Parks	(2) Ford F-350 Dump Trucks	98,000.00
	Gang Mower	70,032.00
Central Maintenance	4x4 Pickup with lift gates & quick start	45,000.00
	Ford F-250 w/plow & generator running lights	35,000.00
	Grand Total	\$1,240,032.00

ITEM #2

ORDERED THAT THE SUM OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$115,000.00) BE AND HEREBY IS APPROPRIATED TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED ACCOUNT:

WATER SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR PURCHASE OF VEHICLES
(ACCT # 63004504-585101)

SAID AMOUNT IS TO BE TAKEN FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS IN THE WATER SURPLUS ACCOUNT.

ITEM #3

ORDERED THAT THE SUM OF FIFTY NINE THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED SEVEN AND 33/100 DOLLARS (\$59,907.33) BE AND HEREBY IS APPROPRIATED TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED ACCOUNT:

MIS SALARY ACCOUNT FOR SR. SYSTEMS ENGINEER
(ACCT # 11360007-514025)

SAID AMOUNT IS TO BE TAKEN FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS IN THE STABILIZATION FUND.

ITEM #4

ORDERED THAT THE SUM OF THREE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$3,000.00) BE AND HEREBY IS APPROPRIATED TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED ACCOUNT:

SETTLEMENT IN THE CMAIL OF SADLER v. FMC V. CITY OF CHICOPEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS (ACCT # 19990004-576003)

SAID AMOUNT IS TO BE TAKEN FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS IN THE STABILIZATION FUND.

ITEM #5
Minutes



CHICOPEE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
FINANCE COMMITTEE

ACCEPTED 2/11/09

MEMBERS

William Zaskey, Chairman
Shane Brooks, Vice-Chairman
James Tillotson
George Moreau
Dino Brunetti
John Vieau
Fred Krampits

MINUTES

September 8, 2008

The following are the minutes of a public hearing held Monday, September 8, 2008 at 6:30 PM in the Aldermanic Chambers, Fourth Floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

Members Present

Zaskey, Brooks, Tillotson, Brunetti, Krampits, Moreau, Vieau (6:34PM)

Also Present

Alderman Zygarowski, Alderman Swider, Mayor Michael Bissonnette, Ernest Laflamme (City Treasurer), Stanley Kulig (DPW Superintendent), Allen Ryczek (CMG), Stanley Walczak (Parks & Rec Superintendent), Richard Rege (Superintendent of Schools), Thomas Rooke (City Solicitor), Michael Lareau (MIS), Frank Cervone (MIS), Ken Krech (MIS)

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM

ITEM #1

ORDERED THAT \$1,240,00.00 IS APPROPRIATED FOR THE PURCHASE OF DEPARTMENTAL EQUIPMENT; THAT IS APPROPRIATION THE TREASURER WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR IS AUTHORIZED TO BORROW \$1,240,032.00 AND ISSUE BONDS OR NOTES UNDER CHAPTER 44 OF THE GENERAL LAWS OR ANY ENABLING AUTHORITY, THAT SUCH BONDS OR NOTES UNDER CHAPTER 44 OF THE GENERAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITY; THAT THE TREASURER WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR IS AUTHORIZED TO TAKE ANY OTHER ACTION NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THIS PROJECT.

Bond authorization for the acquisition of capital equipment.

Department	Request	Estimated Cost
Highway	(2) 7-9 yard dump trucks	280,000.00
	Tractor Backhoe w/plow	155,000.00

Engineering/Highway	Ford Escape Hybrid (switch w/Explorer)	32,000.00
Sanitation	(3) 20 yd. Sanitation Packers w/toters	525,000.00
DPW Parks	(2) Ford F-350 Dump Trucks	98,000.00
	Gang Mower	70,032.00
Central Maintenance	4x4 Pickup with lift gates & quick start	45,000.00
	Ford F-250 w/plow & generator running lights	35,000.00
	Grand Total	\$1,240,032.00

Tillotson stated he does not want to see that much money bonded. Just received letter from City Clerk, Keith Rattell, that the city needs new voting machines as well.

Stan Kulig stated the needs are legitimate. They are going to need a total of 9-10 trucks on the road or they will be extremely behind if there are not enough. Although they will be able to get the job done it will not be on time. The department needs 3, maybe 1 a year for 3 years. As for the Ford Escape, that would be given to the Mayor and the highway department would take over the Mayor's present car, the Ford Explorer and given to the Operations Supervisor. Overall the departments' needs are mandatory and take very good care as well as special attention to all of the vehicles. He stated he does not want to go shorthanded throughout the season again and needs as much as the city is willing to give.

Stan Walczak stated if there are things to go around the city, there is only so much they can do at a time with very little vehicles.

Vieau asked if it makes sense to buy a brand new generator instead or a new truck

Allen Ryczek answered the generator is fairly large and takes up about 1/3 of the bed

Vieau then asked if it works with plowing

Stan Kulig stated those particular trucks do not plow and that is why they want new trucks with the plow features.

Brunetti asked when the last time the city bought packers and how many there are now

Stan Kulig answered about 2003 and at the moment there are 8 and normally he needs 7 on just trash alone but has to cut back to 5

Mayor Bissonnette stated it would cost close to \$140,000.00 a year to pay off for 10 years. Strongly urges to approve and go full board of this.

Stan Kulig stated the committee knows the needs and although 2 is better than none, 3 or 4 is better than 2.

Brooks asked what the mowing system is like right now and if they are behind

Stan Walczak answered they are very much behind and if allowed by the city, they can get new ones right away. He stated they already have prices and the equipment is in stock.

Swider stated he feels that the departments need to get this equipment right away, things were already taken off and thrown to the back burner and the city is now left with the necessities.

Zygarowski asked if it's a good idea that the truck with the generator also be used to plow when it is such an important truck to the departments.

Stan Kulig answered it will only be used for emergency road calls and it is always nice to have an extra plow truck on the road.

Krampits asked how much % wise is going to be the difference between bonding and taking out of funds.

Ernest LaFlamme answered for short term about 2-3%

Mayor Bissonnette stated there are 3 options, either take it out of bond money, stabilization or wait for free cash fund.

Krampits then asked what about long term

Ernest LaFlamme stated it will be short term

Mayor Bissonnette stated it will all be short term but possibly a few years from now roll it over into 5 yrs. He wants to make sure the city gets the lowest percent of interest rates

Ernest LaFlamme stated he is also always going to be checking out the market and if its low then go for the long term

Mayor Bissonnette stated this needs to be done or else if worst comes to worst and the budget goes to 9 million the city will not survive and there will not be enough equipment which could then go into making cuts

Brunetti stated he understands the needs but it all came on "one ticket" and the problem is with the bonding. It would have been much easier if it came to the committee sooner and on a much smaller scale.

Vieau stated he also understands the needs and feels it should be approved

Brooks asked if it were to be short term could the city pay it off immediately or at least a large portion

Ernest LaFlamme stated the city would then have to pay a premium

Brooks stated he would rather take the money out of the stabilization or free cash fun but also agrees that this need to get done

Tillotson stated if the city were to buy all this equipment, by the time they are paid off they will be junk. He stated he'd rather keep larger items for the long term only and put others in stabilization. Also, if the city were to take 2 million from free cash there would still be 3 million left, much rather like to see the equipment just bought up front.

Vieau asked if it is in the best interest to short term bond

Ernest Laflamme answered yes, best interest

Motion made to approve

Motion passed. Committee vote: (3) Zaskey, Krampits, Vieau favorable – (4) Tillotson, Brunetti, Moreau, Brooks unfavorable

Item #2

ORDERED THAT THE SUM OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$115,000.00) BE AND HEREBY IS APPROPRIATED TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED ACCOUNT:

WATER SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR PURCHASE OF VEHICLES
(ACCT # 63004504-585101)

SAID AMOUNT IS TO BE TAKEN FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS IN THE WATER SURPLUS ACCOUNT.

Motion made to approve.

Motion passed. Committee Vote: 7-0 Favorable

Item # 3

ORDERED THAT THE SUM OF FIFTY NINE THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED SEVEN AND 33/100 DOLLARDS (\$59,907.33) BE AND HEREBY IS APPROPRIATED TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED ACCOUNT:

MIS SALARY ACCOUNT FOR SR. SYSTEMS ENGINEER
(ACCT # 11360007-514025)

SAID AMOUNT IS TO BE TAKEN FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS IN THE STABLIZATION FUND.

Ken Krech stated the MIS Dept. has a tremendous amount of work to do and with that network comes a great deal of work.

Mike Lareau stated the City has grown so much from when he first started working here 4 years ago with just 1 server. Everything that happens in the City goes through the fiber optic server in city hall. Everyone in city hall works in front of computer and they depend on the network to work, if they don't have their computer they are not going to get any work done.

Zaskey asked if the dept. responds to schools as well

Mike Lareau answered the only two things that the network does not work with is schools and Chicopee electric

Zaskey then asked about the new application at the library

Mike Lareau answered they just hooked up the video cameras in the parking lots to go directly to the police station

Ken Krech stated schools are able to connect through munis and our fiber optic server. Also in October it will be live throughout City Hall.

Vieau asked how many people are currently in the MIS dept.

Ken Krech answered 5 people plus the tech. project manager

Vieau asked if this would then free up space for the other positions

Mike Lareau stated yes, and he would go and apply for the senior position because he feels confident he is more then qualified for the position

Motion to approve

Motion passed. Committee Vote: 7-0 Favorable

Item # 4

ORDERED THAT THE SUM OF THREE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$3,000.00) BE AND HEREBY IS APPROPRIATED TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED ACCOUNT:

SETTLEMENT IN THE CMAIL OF SADLER v. FMC V. CITY OF CHICOPEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS (ACCT # 19990004-576003)

SAID AMOUNT IS TO BE TAKEN FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS IN THE STABLIZATION FUND.

Richard Rege stated the contract signed is the same contract signed by all departments in Western Mass. If the contract is not signed then the city is unable to use the ice at anytime which would lead to having no hockey teams for the high schools etc.

Tillotson asked how to prevent this in the future

Richard Rege answered it will be very hard to prevent considering there are constantly people in the stands between all games. The only way to completely prevent it is if someone were to open a private rink.

Moreau asked if there is a permanent record that the fan was at the rink at the time of the accident

Richard Rege answered yes, he believes so

Motion made to approve
Motion passed. Committee Vote: 7-0 Favorable

Motion made by Alderman Tillotson for re-consideration of Item #1
Motion passed. Committee Vote: 7-0 Favorable

Roll Call:

Members Present: Zaskey, Brooks, Tillotson, Brunetti, Krampits, Moreau, Vieau

Alderman Tillotson asked Mayor to buy gang mower and everything under \$100,000.00 up front and to bond the rest of the equipment.

Mayor Bissonnette agreed and said he will send up orders to the Aldermanic Office, stated he is looking at no more than 1 million.

Department	Request	Estimated Cost
Highway	(2) 7-9 yard dump trucks	280,000.00
	Tractor Backhoe w/plow	155,000.00
Sanitation	(3) 20 yd. Sanitation Packers w/toters	525,000.00
	Grand Total	\$960,000.00

Motion made to authorize up to 1 million dollars in bonding
Motion passed. Committee Vote: 7-0 Favorable

Item # 5 – Minutes

2/21/08 and 6/2/08

Motion made by Alderman Moreau to approve
Motion passed. Committee Vote: 7-0 Favorable

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM.